

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee

Report Run Date: 06/05/2019 08:17:21 PM

1. Department or Agency		2. Fiscal Year	
Department of Transportation		2018	
3. Committee or Subcommittee		3b. GSA Committee No.	
Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee		682	
4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	06/28/2017	06/28/2019	
8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date	
No			
9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?	
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
11. Establishment Authority	Agency Authority		
12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
agency decision memorandum	02/24/1984	Continuing	No
15. Description of Committee Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board			
16a. Total Number of Reports	No Reports for this Fiscal Year		
17a. Open 1	17b. Closed 0	17c. Partially Closed 0	Other Activities 0
17d. Total 1			

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
First meeting of COMSTAC under the renewed charter. Webcast can be viewed at https://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ast/advisory_committee/meeting_news/presentations/#jun_18	06/14/2018	06/14/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$48,000.00	\$48,000.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00

18d. Total	\$105,000.00	\$105,000.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.50	0.50

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

COMSTAC makes recommendations to DOT and the FAA Administrator regarding proposed federal policy, business and economic issues and other specific concerns affecting the U.S. commercial space transportation industry. At the June 2018 meeting (the first meeting under the new charter) FAA/AST gave COMSTAC five taskers related to spaceport siting regulatory requirements, voluntary safety reporting standards, industry feedback on the Acceptable Level of Risk concept currently being deployed by FAA, best practices for complying with Article VI Outer Space Treaty obligations and industry recommendations on streamlining launch license evaluations. The first responses from COMSTAC was presented at the public meeting held on October 2018.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The committee members represent a wide range of industry viewpoints. Members include representatives from commercial space launch service providers (companies that conduct FAA-licensed launches); commercial spaceport operators (companies/organizations that manage and operate non-Federal launch sites); space launch vehicle and satellite manufacturers; launch insurers; and satellite users; and lawyers, investors, and economists working on commercial space issues. Membership also includes representatives from academia (i.e., space studies), space policy and space advocacy organizations, and officials from commercial spaceports. To ensure that the recommendations of the committee have taken into account the needs of diverse groups served by the FAA, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals and/or organizations to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The committee typically meets twice a year in person (once in the Fall and once in the Spring). Working groups meet as needed, usually via teleconference, to work on reports and recommendations back to the full committee. Maintenance of the committee is a vital component to the success of the U.S. commercial space transportation industry. Committee recommendations and input also represent important assistance to the FAA in carrying out the Administration's national space policy. In FY2018, the committee only met once in person due to the plans to renewed the charter later in the year. There are several meetings currently planned for FY2019, the first one occurred on October 31, 2018.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

Members constitute the primary source of information and industry expertise because the members are the key decision makers, launch technology experts, and users of space launch technology throughout the US and the world. The committee is the most appropriate, efficient, and cost-effective way for FAA to obtain information and effective advice in such a dynamic business and policy environment.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A

21. Remarks

COMSTAC has provided information, advice, and recommendations to the Department of Transportation and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration on U. S. commercial space transportation industry issues since 1984. The economic, technical, and institutional expertise provided by COMSTAC members has been invaluable to our work in developing effective regulations that ensure safety during commercial launch operations and policies that support international competitiveness for the industry. The Committee utilizes working groups, which provide information, reports, and recommendations to the full Committee for adoption. The Committee may also establish ad hoc working groups or special task groups to address specific short-term issues and/or current issues. The COMSTAC charter expired on November 17, 2016 along with all membership terms and working groups active at that time. The charter was renewed on June 28, 2017 for two more years. COMSTAC had four active working groups in FY18: Infrastructure, Safety, Legal & Regulatory and Competitiveness & Innovation. At the end of FY18, the Committee had 26 members with one more nomination pending with OST.

Designated Federal Officer

Dorothy Reimold DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Alexander, Bretton	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	Blue Origin	Representative Member
Armor, James	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	Northrop Grumman	Representative Member
Autry, Greg	06/27/2018	06/26/2020	Academia	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Beckman, Arthur	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	Boeing	Representative Member
DalBello, Richard	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	Virgin Orbit	Representative Member
Damphousse, Paul	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	Spire Global	Representative Member
Facktor, Debra	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	Ball Aerospace	Representative Member
Garcia, Oscar	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	Interflight Global	Representative Member
Gold, Michael	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	Maxar	Representative Member
Hassler, Christopher	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	Syndetics, Inc	Representative Member
Holder, Livingston	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	Holder Aerospace	Representative Member
Hughes, Timothy	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	SpaceX	Representative Member
Karika, Janet	03/16/2018	11/26/2018	Jacobs	Representative Member
Karnes, David	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	Kutak Rock	Representative Member
Kunstadter, Christopher	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	AXA XL	Representative Member
Lindsey, Steven	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	Sierra Nevada Corp.	Representative Member

Lopez-Alegria, Michael	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	MLA Space	Representative Member
McCown, Brigham	06/27/2018	06/26/2020	Alliance for Innovation	Representative Member
McElroy, Deborah	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	ACI-NA	Representative Member
Nash, Dale	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	VA Space Authority	Representative Member
Pinkerton, Sharon	06/06/2018	06/05/2020	Airlines for America	Representative Member
Sabathier, Robbie	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	United Launch Alliance	Representative Member
Stallmer, Eric	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	Commercial Spaceflight Federation	Representative Member
Warren, Jennifer	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	Lockheed Martin	Representative Member
Weeden, Charity	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	Liquinox Consulting	Representative Member
Witt, Stuart	03/16/2018	03/15/2020	S.O. Witt & Assoc.	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 26

Narrative Description

The committee has consistently supported the mission of the Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration in maximizing safety during commercial launch and reentry operations as well as operations of commercial (i.e. non-Federal) launch sites. At the June 2018 meeting (the first meeting under the new charter) FAA/AST gave COMSTAC five taskers related to urgent issues: spaceport siting regulatory requirements, voluntary safety reporting standards, industry feedback on the Acceptable Level of Risk concept currently being deployed by FAA, best practices for complying with Article VI Outer Space Treaty obligations and industry recommendations on streamlining launch license evaluations. The first responses from COMSTAC were discussed at the October 2018 meeting.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

31

Number of Recommendations Comments

In FY 2017, COMSTAC made 7 recommendations to the FAA AST at the annual fall meeting. The typical spring meeting was not held this year due to expiration of the charter in November, 2016. At the end of FY18, COMSTAC's working groups had drafted and were considering 10 potential recommendations to discuss at the meeting held on October 31, 2018.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

87%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

NA

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

10%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

NA

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to

implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Feedback is provided primarily through observations, findings and recommendations from the Committee to FAA. FAA then responds via letter to the Committee on how it will implement the recommendations of the Committee.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A